

Flash Report

Field Developments and Displacement Movements in Idlib

Edition 01
September 2018

Sequence of Events

- IDP Statistics
- Children Statistics
- Injured IDPs
- Displacement and Places of Settlement
- IDP Destinations
- IDPs in Regular Camps

Field Developments and Displacement Movements in Idleb

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1- The Field Situation In Idleb Governorate And its Surrounding Countryside:

On 30 September 2015, after the Syrian regime lost control on 80% of its territory and Damascus capital almost came out of its control, the Russian parliament approved the use of the army for killing in Syria. On the same date the first Russian military operations in Syria has begun, where the Russian forces were leading most of the military operations of the Syrian regime on the ground, while Russian Air Force (RUAf) were supporting the Syrian forces from the air.

The Syrian regime seeks to restore all the areas that have come out of its control by sieging it, as well as launching a large-scale military operation that force it to comply with its demands under the name of “reconciliation operations”. The regime receives political and military support from its international allies under the international community silence on the massacres perpetrated against civilians. Over seven years, the Syrian regime forcibly displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians from all governorates to Idleb governorate, where these IDPs considered Idleb as their last refuge.

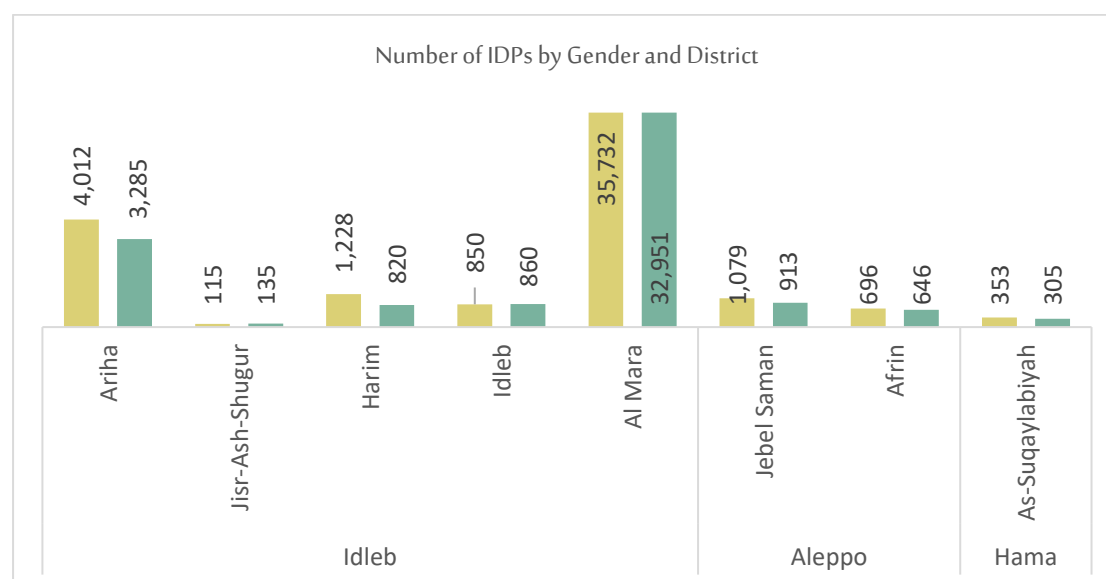
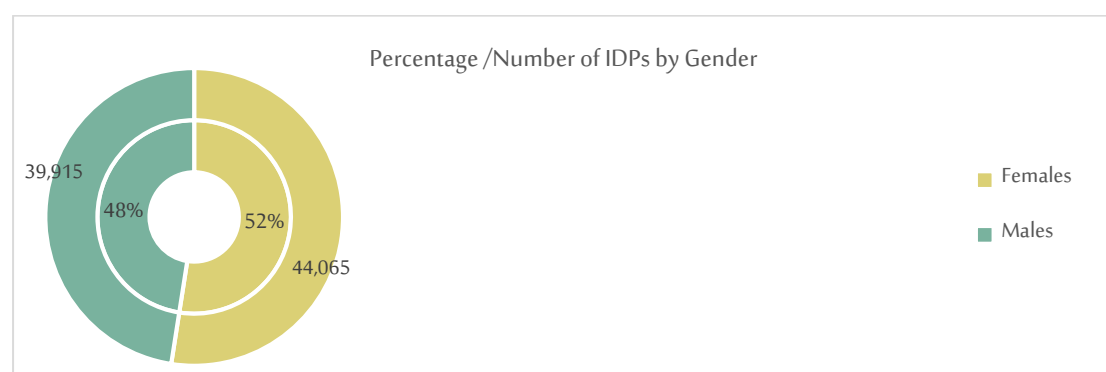
After the regime regained the military control over all the governorates that were held by the opposition, he tends now to take control over Idleb governorate. **On 9 August 2018**, the regime's air forces dropped leaflets over opposition-held Idleb governorate, calling on its people to make reconciliation and warning them of an impending military campaign against the governorate. Meanwhile, the regime began to mobilize its forces on all the governorate borders. **On 10 August 2018**, the Syrian regime shelled the cities and towns of Idleb, Aleppo and Hama governorate. In the western countryside of Aleppo, Big Orm town located within Atareb sub-district was shelled by three successive air strikes, killing 47 civilians and leaving dozens injured, some of whom are in critical conditions. The regime air forces dropped 30 explosive barrels over Skik, Tamanaah, and the Um Jalal villages in Tamanaah sub-district. The regime also shelled Jisr-Ash-Shugur city with heavy artillery, whereas it attacked the town of Khan Shaykun with air raids; killing seven civilians. In addition to this, the shelling that hit Tah town in Heish sub-district has left three civilians dead. The regime's heavy machine guns air raided the town of Ma'arrat An Nu'man, causing a fire to break up in its central hospital. The Educational Assemblies in the governorate announced the suspension of the summer activities of schools for three days in the sub-districts of Khan Shaykun, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, and Kafr Nobol; because of hostilities. **On 12 August 2018**, the regime blocked up the al-Madiq Castle passageway in the northern countryside of Hama. This crossing is considered the road that connects between the regime-held areas and the opposition-held areas. Moreover, the regime shelled the towns of Latmana, Latmin, Zayzun, Sarmaniya, Qalidin, Hawash and Kafr Nabutha in the northern countryside of Hama. This aggression left two persons dead in addition to several injuries. **On 27 August 2018**, Syrian and Russian forces spread a rumour that Kafr Zeita city has become depopulated, and only armed fighters remained there, adding to that, these fighters have transferred chemical weapons to Kafr Zeita city. The local council responded to these rumours by issuing a statement confirming the presence of civilians within their homes and denied the existence of any chemical weapons within the city.

The population at Kafr Zeita went out in a demonstration which confirms the presence of civilians within the city to stop the rumours broadcasted by the Syrian regime and its Russian allies. Local sources confirm that the Syrian regime is preparing to target the city by chemical weapons and accusing the opposition factions of this targeting. Whereas, several countries reported from its own sources that Syrian regime is preparing for using chemical weapon against civilians in Idleb, prompting these countries to threaten the Syrian regime of reacting in case of using the chemical weapons there.

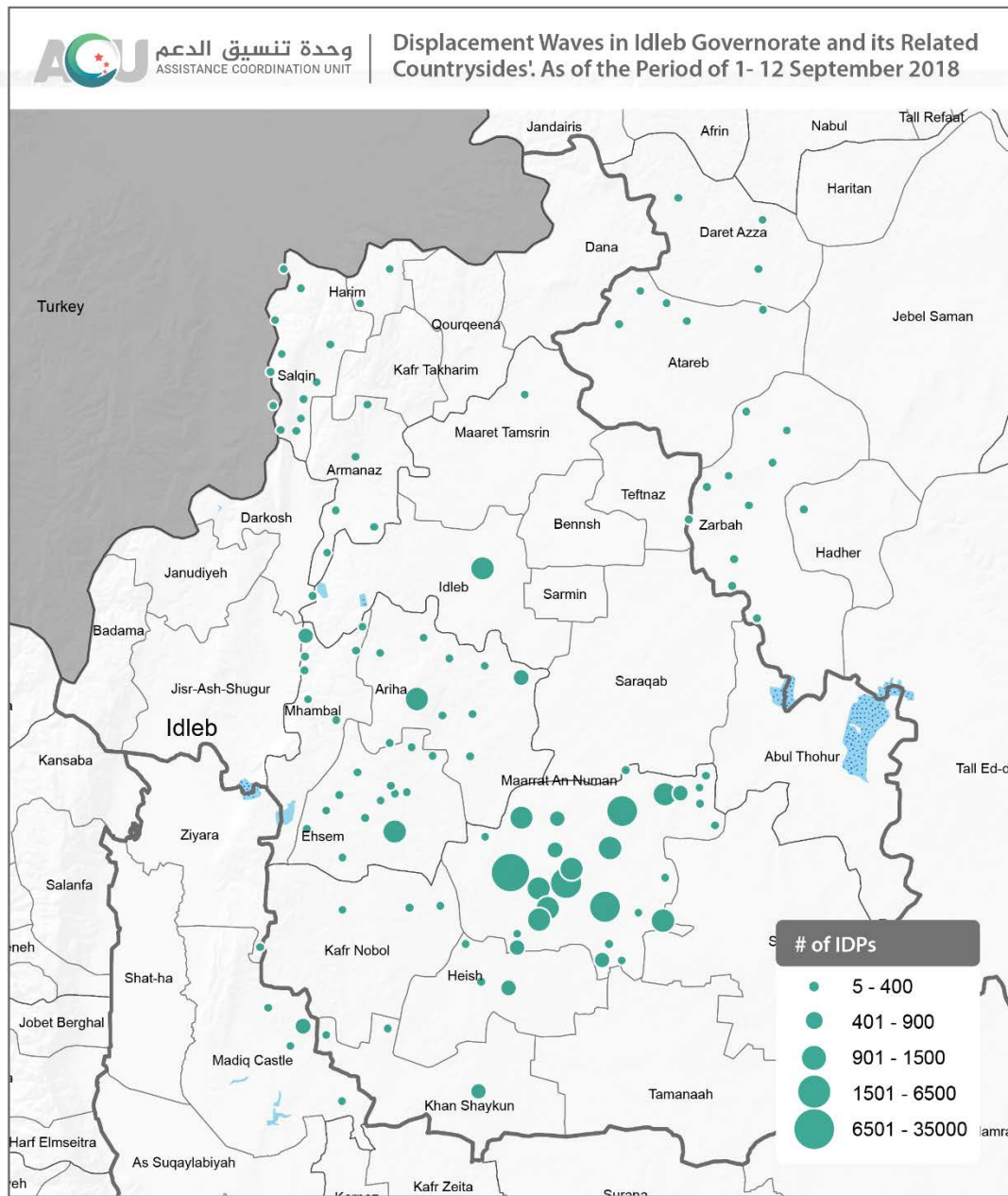
On **31 August 2018**, Idleb governorate and its surrounding countryside of Aleppo and Hama governorates have witnessed demonstrations at 100 demonstration points. The demonstrators held banners that rejected any military action by the regime and its allies on the liberated areas. The Syrian Revolution flag was raised at all the demonstration points. On **4 September 2018**, RUAF targeted Jisr-Ash-Shugur district in Idleb governorate with 20 air strikes, killing 12 civilians, including five children. The RUAF also targeted Ariha district in Idleb governorate with several air strikes, Where Mhambal town was targeted by four air strikes, killing three women, Sahen town was targeted by two air strikes, and Bsanqul, Northern Laj, Al-Badriya, Anb and Jadraya towns were targeted by several air strikes. On **7 September 2018**, in Ma'arrat An Nu'man district, the southern countryside of Idleb governorate; RUAF targeted Hbit village with several air strikes, killing four civilians and injuring several others. On **8 September 2018**, in Ma'arrat An Nu'man district, the southern countryside of Idleb governorate; the Syrian regime helicopters targeted the town of Khan Shaykun with explosive barrels. An act that rendered the civil defense center out of service, killing of a child and several people sustained injuries. The regime has also targeted the road connecting the town of Khan Shaykun and Kafrsajna with explosive barrels, killing one woman and injuring several civilians. In Has town, the hospital called Nabdh Al-Hayat has been rendered inoperative as a result of forthright targeting the facility with explosive barrels by the regime. In the meantime, with over 50 missile and artillery shells, the regime shelled the towns of Elsarj, Borj, Karsanti and Um Jalal. Aggression that led to the displacement of the entire people living in these villages towards the neighboring Turkish point, towards the north. RUAF attacked the village of Abdin with several air strikes, killing six civilians and injuring dozens. In the northern countryside of Hama, Al-Madiq Castle and Tweini towns were subjected to heavily shelled with heavy artillery and missile launchers, killing four civilians and wounding dozens. Latmana hospital has been rendered out of service as a result of hitting the facility directly with explosive barrels by the regime helicopters, which also targeted the towns and villages of Latmana. On **9 September 2018**, In **Ma'arrat An Nu'man district**, the southern countryside of Idleb governorate; the Syrian regime and the Russian Air Force (RUAF) targeted Hbit town with 25 air strikes, caused in killing two children and a civilian, in addition to dozens of injuries. The local council of Kafr Zeita sub-district in a statement issued has announced that Kafr Zeita is a disaster-stricken area. The Syrian regime targeted Jarjnaz, Tah, and Heish towns with cluster bombs, resulting in six martyrs and wounding others. The Syrian air force also targeted civil defense teams in the vicinity of Khan Shaykun town, during their aid to the casualties, caused in injuring two members of the civil defense crews. In the northern countryside of Hama, the Syrian air force and RUAF targeted the villages of Kafr Zeita sub-district (Latmana, Kafr Zeita, Latmin, Sayad, Zakat, Arbain, Hasraya, and Maarkaba) with 100 air strikes, in addition to 200 missile and artillery shells, killing four civilians and injuring dozens.

2- IDP Statistics:

The Information Management Unit (IMU) of the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU), through its network of enumerators distributed in all the areas outside Syrian regime control and the in the northern camps, are regularly working to track the IDP numbers. Up to 12 September 2018, the ACU has documented 85,233 IDPs. These waves of displacement began in early September 2018, as a result of the escalation of military operations. 83,980 IDPs were distributed among the villages of Idleb, Aleppo and Hama governorates, while 1,253 IDPs sought refuge to the northern Syrian camps. The first sections of this report present IDPs situation within the communities, while the last sections highlight the IDPs statistics in the northern Syrian camps.

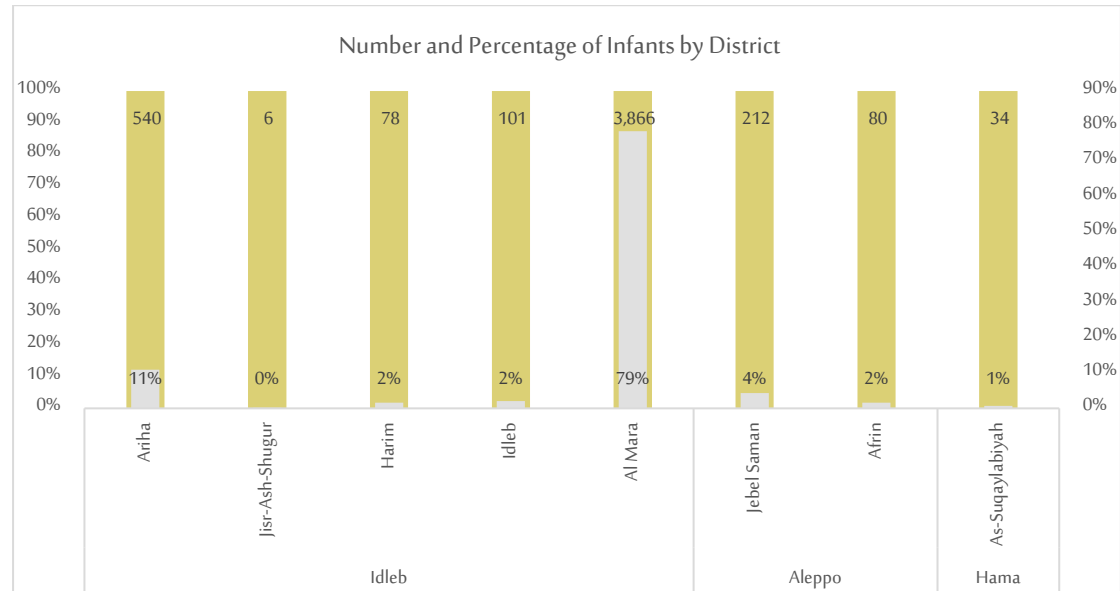


It was reported that the majority of IDPs were distributed in Ma'arat al-Nu'man district in the south of Idleb governorate, where the number of IDPs has reached 68,683 IDPs, as Ma'arat al-Nu'man is a crossing area for IDPs of the southern countryside of Idleb and the Northern countryside of Hama. The second place concerning the IDPs number is Ariha district, where the number of IDPs there 7,297 IDPs, as Ariha district is safer for IDPs in comparison to Maarat al-Nu'man district.

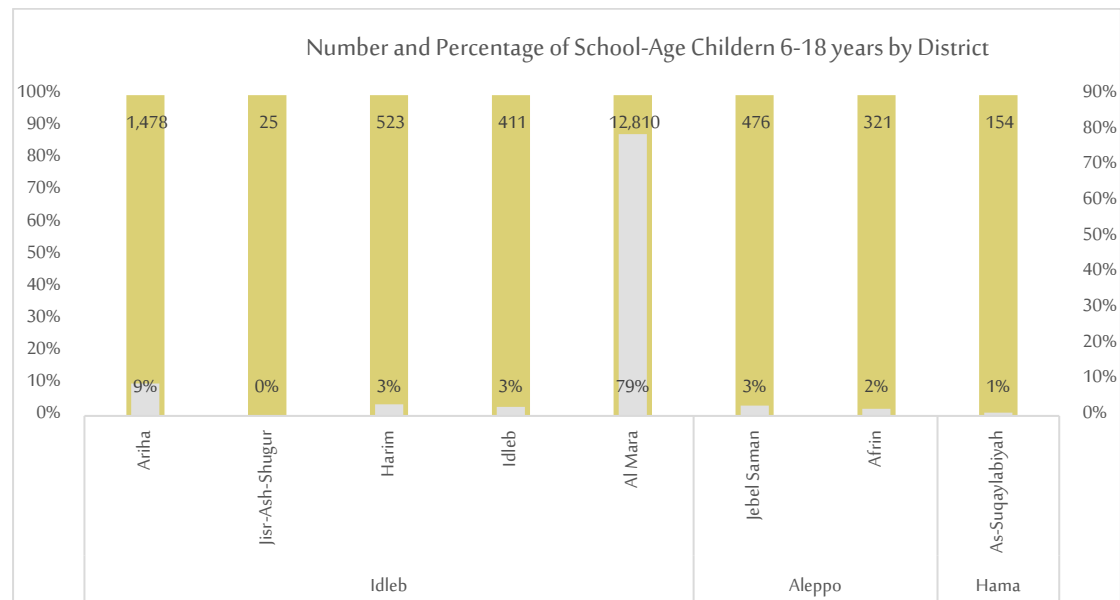


3- IDPs Children Statistics:

The number of IDPs children has reached 31,320 IDPs children, up to 18 years of age, including 4,917 infants, and 16,198 school-age children aged 6-18.



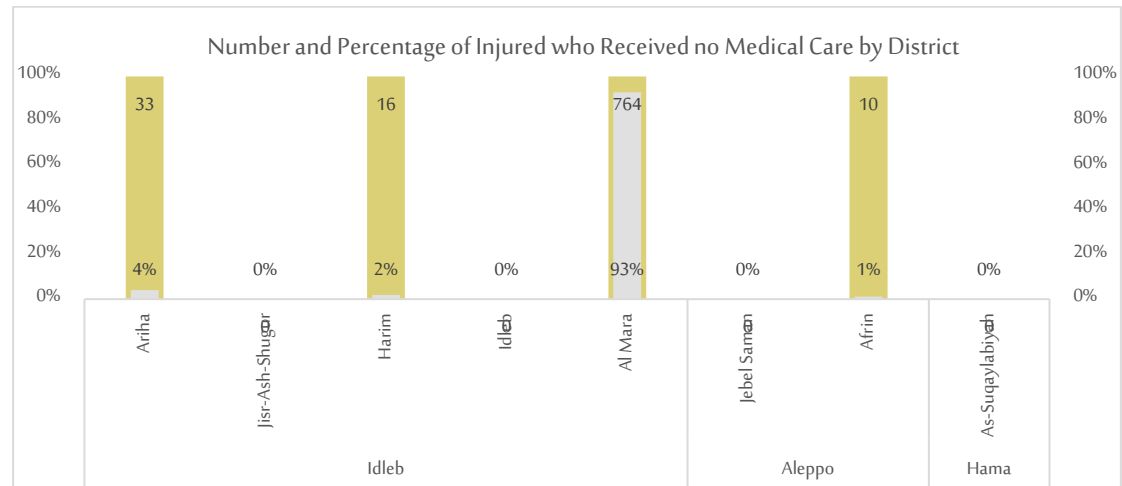
The largest distribution of infants was in Ma'arrat An Nu'man district as of 97% (3,866 infants) of the total number of infant IDPs. Ariha came in the second place with 11% (540 infants).



The largest distribution of school-age children was in Ma'arrat An Nu'man district as of 97% (12,810 school-age children) of the total IDP children at school-age. It is worth mentioning that most of the schools in Ma'arrat An Nu'man were suspended due to increase in the military operations. Ariha district came secondly with 9% (1,478 school-age children).

4- Injured IDPs:

A total of 823 IDPs were injured due to the Syrian regime and its allies targeting their areas of residence.



The majority of IDPs settled in Ma'arrat An Nu'man district, they have formed 93% of the total injured, where they reached 764 injured IDPs. As Ma'arrat An Nu'man is a crossing area for IDPs so there is an urgent need to transport the wounded to safer places in the northern Syrian hospitals. In the event of an escalation of military operations, the hospitals will be overwhelmed by the wounded, which means that the injured people will be deprived of proper health care and their lives will be in danger.

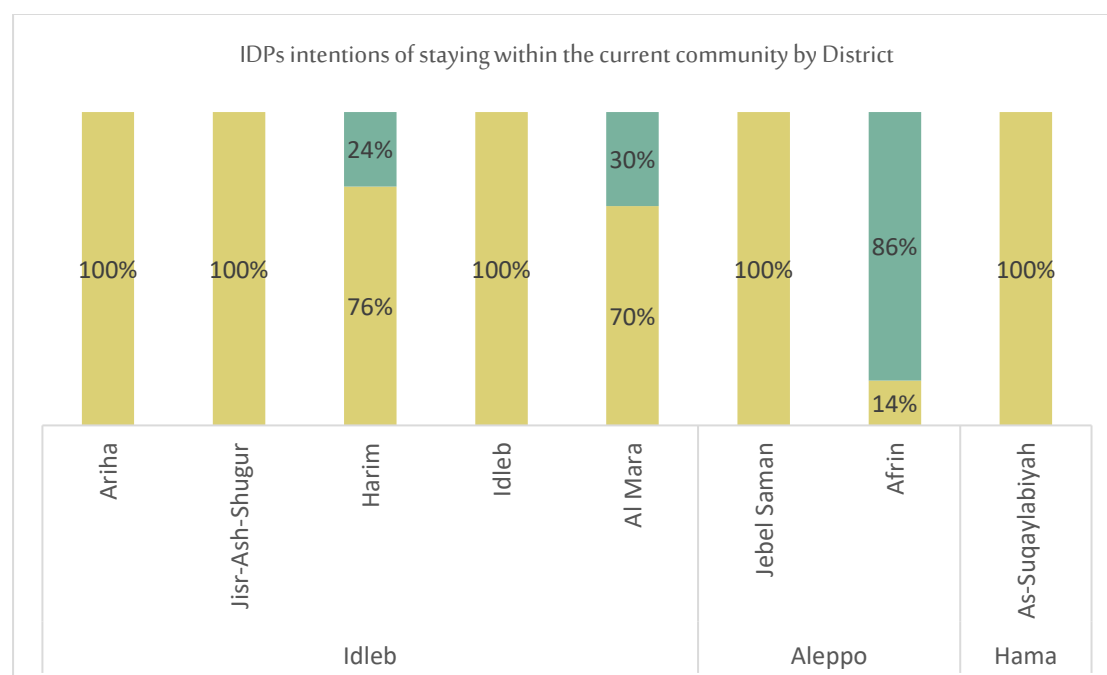
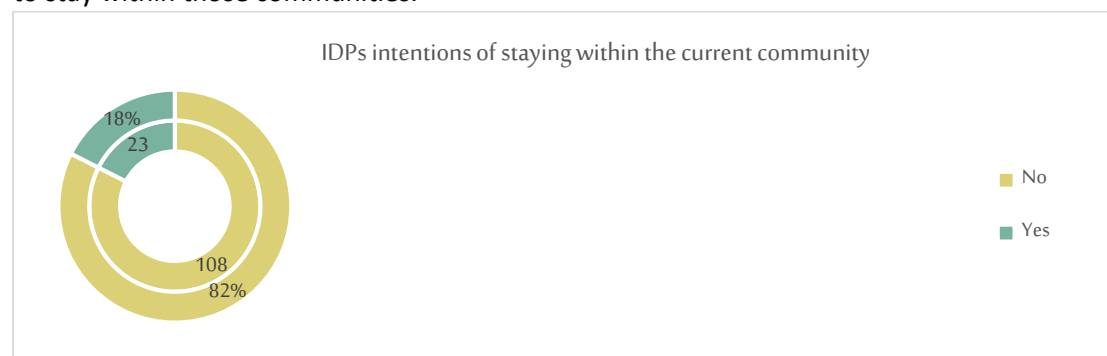
5- IDP Groups Classification:

The married men with their families constituted 53% of total percentage of the IDPs, which means that the largest group within all districts that received IDPs were men-headed households. while the second largest group of IDPs were female-headed households, and they formed 20% of the total IDPs, except for Jisr-Ash-Shugur, As-Suqaylabiyah and Afrin areas where the second largest group of IDPs were the elderly.

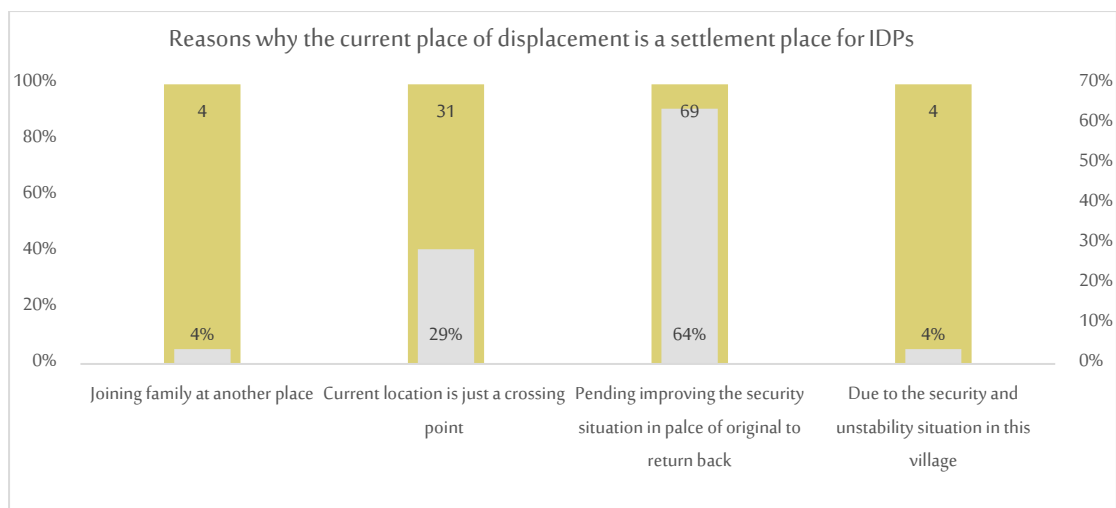
Governorate	District	Male-headed HHs	Female-headed HHs	Elderly	Married women with their families leaving their husbands behind	Unmarried Women	Unmarried Men
Idleb	Ariha						
	Jisr-Ash-Shugur						
	Harim						
	Idleb						
	Al Mara						
Aleppo	Jebel Saman						
	Afrin						
Hama	As-Suqaylabiyah						
Total							

6- The IDPs Destination:

During the data collection, the enumerators asked the IDPs whether they intend to settle in their current places of residence or they intend to leave it. The results show that the IDPs within 82% (108 residential communities) of the current displacement areas do not intend to settle in it, while the IDPs within 18% (23 residential communities) stated of their intentions to stay within those communities.



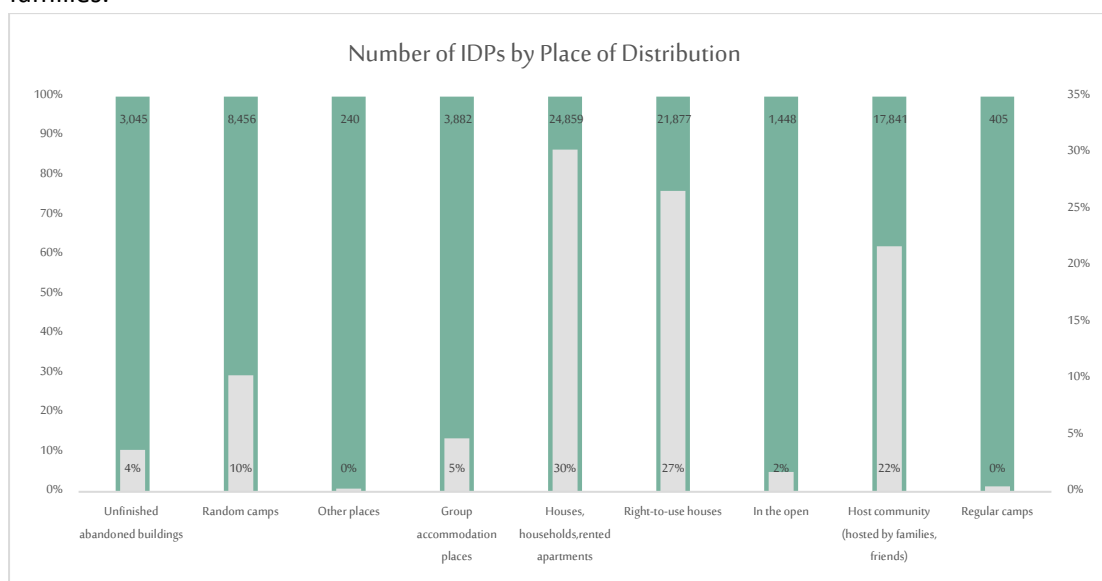
86% of the current residence areas for IDPs in Afrin district is considered as permanent, similarly for 30% of the current residence areas for IDPs in Ma'arat al-Nu'man district, in addition to 24% of the current residence areas in Harim. While all the current settlement in the areas of As-Suqaylabiyah, Jebel Saman, Idleb, Jisr-Ash-Shugur and Ariha were a temporary settlement or crossing points.



The IDPs in 82% (108 residential communities) of the current displacement, reported that they did not intend to settle in it. As 64% (69 residential communities) of the current residence, the IDPs have sought to it, waiting for the security conditions to be improved in their homelands in order to return to it. 29% (31 residential communities) the IDPs considered it crossing point or temporary rest area to resume their displacement, and 4% (4 residential communities) were temporary for IDPs, where they seek to join the family elsewhere, or the security situation was inadequate.

7- Distribution Places of IDPs:

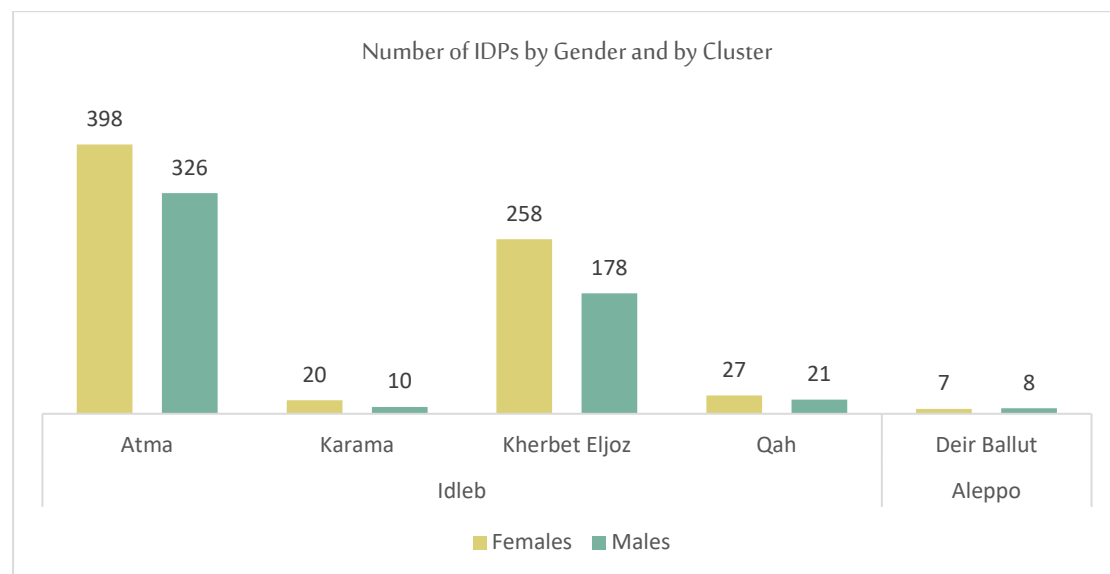
The majority of IDPs settled in rented apartments, with 30% (24,859 IDPs) of the total number of IDPs. It is noteworthy that one apartment is inhabited by 3 to 5 families, which led to an increase in the IDPs number in the rented apartments. The second distribution place for IDPs is right-to-use houses with 27% (21,877 IDPs) of the total number of IDPs. At the beginning of each wave of displacement, some of the population give the IDPs the right to use houses, and they live with relatives. This type of right is temporary until displaced families manage to settle in more stable housing, 22% (17,841 IDPs) of the total number of IDPs settled with host families.



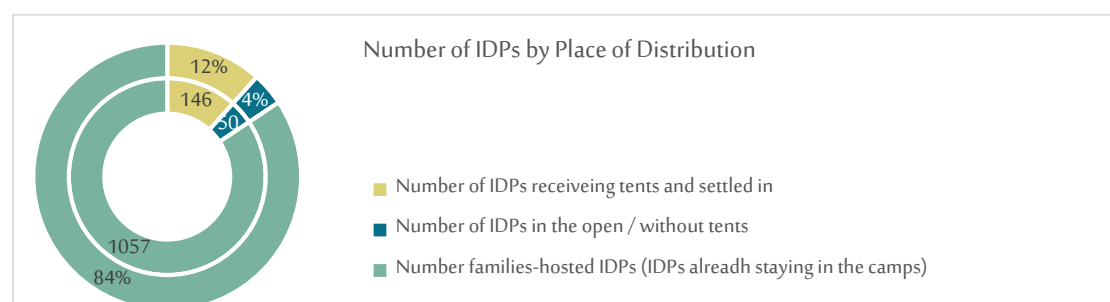
Temporary displacement was the reason for the high proportion of IDPs to settle in right-to-use houses or with host families, where IDPs are expected to return to their homes or to move from current displacement area to other places of settlement.

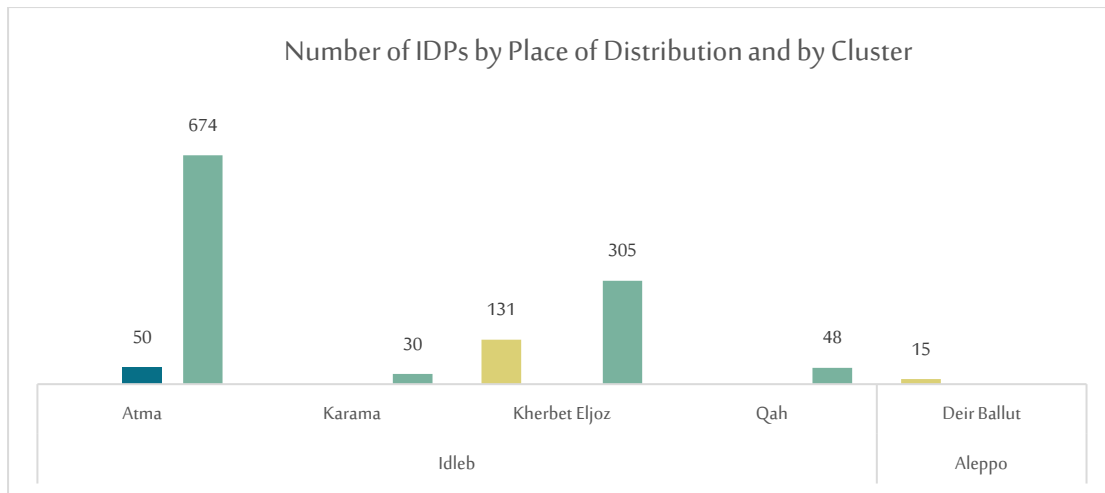
8- IDPs in Regular Camps:

The number of IDPs who sought refuge in Northern Syria camps, or what is called regular camps, is 1,253 IDPs. These IDPs have been living in camps since the beginning of September 2018. Up to 12 September 2018, the bulk of IDPs reached 724 distributed within Atma cluster, the second largest number of IDPs reached 436 distributed within Kherbet Aljouz cluster.



Most of the IDPs who arrived in the regular camps, as a result of the escalation of violence in September 2018, were distributed with host families (the displaced families in the camp who were previously living in the camps) and reached 84% (1,057 IDPs) of the new IDPs, while 12% (146 IDPs) of the new IDPs settled within tents they received during their arrival in the camps. 4% (50 IDPs) of the new IDPs are still in the open.





470 IDPs settled within Atma cluster with host families (the displaced families in the camp who were previously living in the camps), while 50 IDPs are still in the open without tents, which indicates the urgent need to secure new tents for IDPs in the open. As well as, tents need to be provided for all arriving IDPs in the camps because the accommodation with host families is a temporary one.

Recommendation

- Idleb Governorate is considered the last refuge for all civilians fleeing the regime and its allies. There are **more than 3.5 million civilians**, in Idleb Governorate of whom **1.5 million are IDPs**. The bulk of these IDPs have been forcibly displaced to Idleb under the forced displacement agreements that the international community totally ignored. The international community needs to bear its responsibilities to civilians after five years of the forced displacement they endured and protect them in their last refuge by issuing binding resolutions guaranteeing that violence in all its forms will not be used in the governorate of Idleb.
- Many INGOs have suspended their humanitarian work in Idleb Governorate, despite the suffering of the civilians from the escalation of military actions in Idleb. The international community is waiting for the disaster in Idleb to happen and avoiding the entry into this area, even if this leads to increased suffering of the civilians and a high number of casualties. ACU calls all humanitarian agencies the resumption of their humanitarian activities in Idleb to alleviate **the suffering of the afflicted civilians** and meet their basic needs.
- The failure to find an appropriate humanitarian solution to achieve a safe and dignified life for civilians in Idleb Governorate and Syria, in general, will push them to forcibly leave their homes under the killing machine in Syria and search for a haven. During their search, they might cross the seas with their children and some of them might be drowning and the other part who may survive will be suffering the pain of war in his memories.



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